

provided by that measure totaled nearly \$9 billion more than the comparable amount provided last year—about a 10-percent increase.

It would be one thing if the increase were devoted to improved services for our Nation's veterans. After all, they put their lives on the line in defense of our country and all of the rights and liberties we enjoy. We owe them a debt of gratitude—and the obligation to fulfill the promises our Nation made to them when they were called to serve.

Yet the spending increase in this bill is not targeted to veterans. The VA sees only a 0.5 percent increase in its budget. Medical care is increased only 1 percent. But presumably, these increases were sufficient to fulfill our obligations to veterans, exceeding President Clinton's request by nearly \$93 million. I support them, and I stand ready to do more if that is necessary.

Mr. President, compare the virtual spending freeze that our Nation's veteran population is able to bear with what happens to HUD's budget. Last year, HUD received a total of \$16.3 billion. H.R. 2158 proposes to take that figure to \$25.4 billion—a \$9 billion increase. An increase of nearly 56 percent. That is a huge increase, even by Washington standards.

Now I know that part of the reason for the added funding is the need to renew expiring section 8 housing contracts. But I believe we have a responsibility to try to offset the extra spending with reductions in lower priority HUD programs, rather than just add to the total. I see little evidence of attempting to prioritize HUD and other programs in this bill.

It seems to me that the opportunity to find offsets was certainly there. The AmeriCorps Program, for example, was funded at \$405 million. Remember, this is a program that pays volunteers to work. In most parts of the country, paying someone to work constitutes employment. Volunteers provide their time and energy out of their own good will. But here we have a government program—a Clinton administration priority—that actually pays volunteers to work.

AmeriCorps committed last year to try to reduce its cost per participant to \$17,000 this year and to \$15,000 in 1999. Yet that is how much a lot of people around the country earn from their jobs. This is an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer funds, and we would do well to eliminate it. Yet I know that President Clinton would probably veto the bill—veterans funding and all—just to preserve it. So there seems to be little incentive to do the right thing and trim expenditures.

The Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] Program is another case in point. The bill provides \$1.4 billion for the program, with funding earmarked for a variety of projects, including library expansion in West Virginia, the Paramount Theater in Vermont, the Bushnell Theater in Connecticut, and economic development in

downtown Ogden, Utah, to name just a few. If we had to set priorities, just like any family back home, we would probably conclude that section 8 renewals might be a little more important than some of these CDBG grants.

But when the sky is the limit, we do not have to prioritize. We simply add more spending on top of everything else. And that is how we get a deficit problem.

Mr. President, we need a new way of conducting business. We need to get back to a politics of principle, and of being honest with the American people about whether we are serious about seeking more responsible use of hard-earned tax dollars and reducing the deficit. This bill represents the old way of doing things, and exemplifies the politics of pork.

I voted against the budget agreement last month, in large part because it allowed too much new spending. And the HUD and independent agencies portion of this bill is evidence of what we can expect as the agreement is fully implemented. That is why next year's budget deficit is projected to rise—and not fall—as a result of the agreement.

Mr. President, it is unfortunate that we do not have an opportunity to consider the various components of this bill on their own merits—veterans, HUD, EPA, NASA, AmeriCorps, and the like. I would have supported the veterans budget, the NASA budget, and environmental spending in the bill. But as a package, with the very large increase in HUD spending and a lack of sufficient offsets for it, I concluded that it was necessary to register concern about the process and our country's future, and to vote "no" on the bill.●

LLOYD D. GEORGE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise today in support of a bill I introduced on Monday to designate the new Federal courthouse in Las Vegas as the "Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse." As the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Lloyd George is considered to be one of the most distinguished jurists of the federal judiciary. There is no greater honor we could bestow on the new courthouse in Las Vegas than to name it after a man who has served our Nation with such distinction.

Those who have the privilege of knowing Judge George, as I do, consider him to be a man of great integrity whose career has been marked by a constant commitment to justice. As an attorney, Judge George enjoyed a successful career practicing primarily in the area of commercial law. Prior to his appointment as a United States District Judge in May 1984, Judge George served on the United States Bankruptcy Bench for 10 years. Judge George is a graduate of Las Vegas High and Brigham Young University. He

served as the student body president at both schools. He received his law degree from the University of California, Boalt Hall. Judge George was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of Captain.

Throughout Judge George's professional life he has assumed many leadership responsibilities requiring countless hours of service work all in the pursuit of improving and preserving the best aspects of our judicial system. He has served on three—and been the chairman of two—United States Judicial Conference Committee. Currently, he serves as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States. At the request of Chief Justice Rehnquist he serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference and the International Judicial Relations Committee. He is also a member of the Judicial Council for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has chaired the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the Ninth Circuit. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Central and East European Law Initiative, American Bar Association's Standing Committee of World Order Under Law, and is an Advisory Committee Member of the American Judicature Society. He frequently lectures in the U.S. and abroad on various legal topics and has published a number of articles in legal periodicals. His dedication to improving and promoting our judicial system is unparalleled.

All of us are fortunate to live in a country where men like Judge Lloyd George serve as the arbiter's of our laws. He is truly a man of the highest integrity whose legal career has been guided by a keen, almost innate, sense of justice. On a personal note, I consider myself most fortunate to call Lloyd George my friend.

I believe there is no better way to honor Judge George than to name this new courthouse the Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse. The proposed courthouse is an architectural wonder that will provide a state of the art judicial forum for generations of Nevadans. Judge George was instrumental in bringing this about. We honor his service to the judiciary and his commitment to the principle of equal justice under law by naming the new courthouse after him.●

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, there was an error in the printing of the change to the Appropriations Committee allocation, which was submitted for the RECORD of July 21, 1997. The correct figure for the budget authority allocation pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act follows:

Budget Authority		1998
Current Appropriations		
Committee allocation		\$792,510,000,000
Adjustment		8,766,000,000
Revised Appropriations		
Committee allocation		801,276,000,000●